

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS SUMMARY - AUGUST 24

1. SUN (9) KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE STORY, DISCUSSING U.S.-SOVIET TRADE, SAYS BOOM OF RECENT YEARS IS OVER SINCE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN CANNOT GET GOVERNMENT BACKING FOR LOW-COST CREDIT SALES, AND, MORE IMPORTANT USSR AND EE COUNTRIES ARE DEEPLY IN DEBT TO WEST. OUT OF TOTAL 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS TRADE IN FIRST HALF OF 1976, U.S. IMPORTS ONLY \$100 MILLION. USSR RAN 6 BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT WITH WEST LAST YEAR AND OWES ESTIMATED 40 BILLION DOLLARS, 25 PER CENT GERMAN. SOVIET EXPORT GOODS ARE STILL NOT COMPETITIVE, AND DEFICIT PROBABLY CHRONIC. SOVIETS STILL HAVE A-1 CREDIT RATING, HOWEVER, AND THERE IS STILL SOME HOPE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS WILL EXTEND MFN.

2. SUN (2) HAL PIPER WRITES A POTPOURRI OF SHORT NEWS ITEMS FROM THE SOVIET UNION -- SHORT SUMMER ENDS WITH AUTUM WEATHER; MEAT SHORTAGES, POOR VEGETABLE CROP; BREZHNEV IN SERIES OF EE MINI-SUMMITS INCLUDING CEAUSESCU; BREZHNEV FEATURED IN OGONYOK; NEW STOCKHOLM APPEAL WITH 160 MILLION SIGNATURES.

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3. SUN (3) MOSCOW AP STORY REPORTS RECEIPT OF LUNAR SOIL BY SOVIET SCIENTISTS AND QUOTES FROM PRAVDA ARTICLE ON LUNAR NON-RUSTING IRON.

4. WP (6) BRIEF AFP ITEM REPORTS JERUSALEM POST ATTACKED SOVIET POLICY OF ALLOWING DISSIDENTS TO LEAVE WITH A VISA ONLY TO ISRAEL. THIS ENABLES SOVIETS TO LABEL ALL OPPOSITIONISTS AS JEWISH OR ZIONIST-TAINTED; NON-JEWS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHOUT FORCING THEM TO USE ISRAEL CHANNEL.

5. CSM (AUGUST 23 - 4) ARTICLE BY DAVID WILLIS, DATELINE MOSCOW, EVALUATES OUTCOME OF COLOMBO MEETING FROM POINT OF VIEW OF SOVIET, CHINESE AND U.S. INTEREST. SOVIETS DID LESS WELL THAN EXPECTED, CHINA BETTER, U.S. A HOLDING ACTION, COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. SOVIETS PLEASED WITH SPEECHES OPPOSING COLONIALISM OR IMPERIALISM, BUT PRAVDA TALKED OF FALSE THESES OF HEGEMONISM OF SUPERPOWERS, AND MOSCOW EVIDENTLY DISPLEASED U.S. WAS NOT NAMED AS SOLE CULPRIT IN INDIAN OCEAN. KISSINGER

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